1985
Montana
Migratory Game Bird
Hunting Regulations

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Means of Taking: Migratory game birds may be taken only with bow and arrow, shotgun no larger than ten gauge capable of holding no more than three shells. May not be taken from or by means, or aid of, or use of a sinkbox, aircraft or motor-driven conveyance of any kind, except a motorboat, when the motor has been shut off and the boat has stopped. Use of any electronic or phonographic waterfowl-calling device is illegal.

Hunting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset unless specified otherwise.

Leave Wing Attached: One fully feathered wing must remain attached to the carcass of each bird (except doves) in the field for identification and aging.

Licenses: Persons under 12 may not legally hunt game birds. Hunters must possess one of the following Montana licenses: Resident Sportsman's License, Resident Game Bird License; a Conservation License if holder is a Montana resident 62 years or older or between the ages of 12-14; Nonresident Game Bird License; or Nonresident Big Game, Bird and Fishing License. Each migratory bird hunter 16 years of age and over must carry on his person a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp (Duck Stamp), signed in ink across the face.

Restrictions: No person shall take migratory game birds by driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in range of the hunter; by the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement). Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation.

Closed Season: No person shall take migratory game birds during the closed season.

Daily Bag Limit: No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit.

Field Possession Limit: No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field, or while returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, home, etc.

Wanton Waste: All migratory game birds shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in custody of the hunter in the field.

Tagging: No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

1. The hunter's signature.
2. The hunter's address.
3. The total number of birds involved, by species.
4. The dates such birds were killed. Tagging is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment, or taxidermy services.

Consumption Advisory: To minimize consumption of potential pesticide residues in migratory game birds, following are recommendations for cooking migratory game birds.

1. Trim all fat and discard the skin and internal organs. These items should be discarded in a manner which will assure that they cannot be consumed by humans or domestic or wild animals.
2. Fully cook the skinned bird on a rack and discard the drippings in the same manner as fat, skin and organs.
3. Do not stuff birds.
4. Women who are pregnant or suspect they are pregnant and nursing women should not consume the named birds.

Notice: Whooping Cranes are protected by law. It is illegal to take or attempt to take this bird. If a Whooping Crane is sighted, please call toll-free 1-800-332-6117.

Caution: More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on Federal regulations, contact Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Telephone: 303-234-4612.

CENTRAL FLYWAY — see closures

The Central Flyway includes Blaine, Fergus, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon counties and all counties lying east of these.

DUCKS

Zone 1 includes the counties of Bighorn, Blaine, Carbon, Daniels, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, Valley, Wheatland and Yellowstone.

Zone 2 includes the counties of Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure and Wibaux.

Zone 1, Open Season: October 12, 1985 - November 24, 1985; reopening December 7, 1985 - December 27, 1985.

Zone 2, Open Season: October 12, 1985 - October 20, 1985; reopening November 2, 1985 - December 27, 1985.

Bag Limit: The daily bag limit is reached when the point value of all ducks taken during the day reaches 100 points. A hunter may exceed 100 points on his last duck, provided his bag totaled less than 100 points before shooting the last duck.

The possession limit is the maximum number of ducks which may legally be taken in two days.

	POINTS
Green-Winged Teal	20
Shoveler	20
Gadwall	20
Blue-Winged Teal	20
Cinnamon Teal	20
Scaup	20
Common and Red-Breasted Merganser	20
American Widgeon	20
Ringneck Duck	35
Pintail	35
Drake Mallard	35
Redhead	70
Wood Duck	70
Hooded Merganser	70
Canvasback	100
Hen Mallard	100
All others not listed	35

COOTS

Bag Limit: Coots have a point value of 0, but the bag is limited to 15 daily and 30 in possession.

GEESE

Open Season: September 28, 1985 - December 29, 1985.

Bag Limit: 3 Daily and 6 in possession except in Sheridan county where the bag and possession limit shall be 2 and 4 respectively.

SANDHILL CRANE

Open Season: September 28, 1985 - November 24, 1985. Free permits available from the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge; Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge; Fish, Wildlife, and Parks regional headquarters in Glasgow, Billings, Miles City, and the Fish, Wildlife and Parks office in Helena.

Exceptions: That area south and west of Interstate Highway 90 and the Big Horn River shall be closed to the hunting of Sandhill Crane.

Sheridan County shall be open November 1, 1985 - November 24, 1985.

Bag Limit: 3 Daily and 6 in possession.

COMMON (WILSON'S) SNIPE

Open Season: September 28, 1985 - November 26, 1985.

Bag Limit: 8 Daily and 16 in possession.

TUNDRA (WHISTLING) SWAN

Open Season: September 28, 1985 - December 29, 1985. Hunting by special swan permit only. Apply to Helena Fish, Wildlife and Parks office by September 9. Include name, address, phone number, conservation license number, current bird license number, $2.00 drawing fee and indicate flyway desired. Applicants may not apply for swan permits in both flyways.

MOURNING DOVE

Open Season: September 7, 1985 - November 5, 1985.

Bag Limit: 15 Daily and 30 in possession.

FALCONRY SEASON

Open Season: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset October 12, 1985 - January 12, 1986.

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory game birds, the daily bag and possession limit shall not exceed 2 and 6 birds respectively, singly or in the aggregate, during both the regular hunting season and extended falconry season.

PACIFIC FLYWAY — see closures

The Pacific Flyway includes Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher and Park counties and all counties lying west of these.

DUCKS

Open Season: October 12, 1985 - December 29, 1985. **Canyon Ferry Exception** October 12, 1985 - November 9, 1985, one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon and November 10, 1985 - December 29, 1985, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. See Area Description under Geese, Exception 1.

Bag Limit: Daily limit of 5 ducks and mergansers, and after opening day, a possession limit of 10 ducks and mergansers except that the daily bag may contain no more than 2 redheads, or 2 canvasbacks, or 1 of each; no more than 1 hen pintail; no more than 1 hen mallard. The possession limit may contain no more than 4 redheads and canvasbacks singly or in the aggregate; no more than 2 hen pintails; no more than 2 hen mallards.

COOTS

Bag Limit: 25 Daily and possession.

MERGANSERS

Mergansers are included in the daily bag and possession limits of ducks.

GEESE — see following exceptions

Open Season: September 28, 1985 - December 29, 1985.

East of Continental Divide

Daily Limit: 3 white geese (Snow, Blue, Ross') and 3 dark geese (all other geese).

Possession Limit: 6 geese total in any combination.

West of Continental Divide

Daily Limit: 3 white geese (Snow, Blue, Ross') and 2 dark geese (all other geese).

Possession Limit: 6 geese total of which no more than 2 may be dark geese.

Exception 1, Canyon Ferry: One-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon September 28, 1985 - November 9, 1985, in those portions of Broadwater, Lewis and Clark and Jefferson counties as follows: Beginning at Canyon Ferry Dam, thence in a westerly and southerly direction along State Route 284 to U.S. Highway 287, thence east along said highway approximately one-quarter (1/4) mile to the Jefferson-Broadwater County line, thence southerly along said line to the S.W. corner of T7N, R1W, thence easterly along the south boundary of said township to its intersection with Indian Creek, thence easterly down said creek to its intersection with U.S. Highway 287, thence southerly along said highway to its intersection with U.S. Highway 12, at Townsend, thence easterly along said highway to Broadwater-Meagher County line, thence northerly along said line to the head of Magpie Gulch, thence southerly down said gulch to State Route 284, thence westerly along said highway to Canyon Ferry Dam, the point of beginning.

One-half hour before sunrise to sunset November 10, 1985 - December 29, 1985 in the above described area.

Exception 2, Flathead: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset September 28, 1985 - November 25, 1985, in portions of Flathead, Lake, and Sanders counties described as follows: Beginning at Ravalli, thence north along U.S. Highway 93 to Polson and Elmo, thence west on State Highway 28 to its intersection with State Highway 382 near Hot Springs and south along said highway to Perma, thence east along State Route 200 to Ravalli, the point of beginning.

Exception 3, Deer Lodge County: One-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon October 12, 1985 - December 29, 1985, in Deer Lodge County.

Exception 4, Benton Lake: (Dark Geese Only) One-half hour before sunrise to sunset November 1, 1985 - December 29, 1985, in those portions of Cascade, Chouteau and Teton counties as follows: Beginning at Interstate 15 Interchange near Power, then due east on Teton County road 4½ miles, then north 1 mile, then east 13 miles to State Highway 225 (Bootlegger Trail), then south 7 miles along Bootlegger Trail, then west 4 miles on Cascade County road, then north 1 mile, then west 8 miles, then north 1 mile, then west 3 miles, to the Gordon Interchange on Interstate 15, then north along Interstate 15 to the Power Interchange, the point of beginning.

Exception 5, Missoula County: (Closed to hunting of geese): A tract of land comprising of portions of Sections 20, 21, 27, 28, 34 and 35, T13N, R18W, and Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12, T12N, R18W, more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the Montana Power dam at Milltown and extending in an easterly direction along the north shore of the impoundment to Interstate Highway 90, thence in a southeasterly direction along Interstate Highway 90 to the Turah exit, thence southeasterly across the Turah Bridge and along the frontage road to its junction with the Old Milwaukee Railroad right-of-way, thence in a northwesterly direction along the railroad right-of-way to the Montana Power dam at Milltown, the point of beginning.

Exception 6, Kleinschmidt Lake: (Closed to Canada geese) That portion of Powell County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Helmville, thence northerly along State Highway 271 to the intersection of Highway 200, thence northwesterly along Highway 200 to the North Fork of the Blackfoot River, thence southwesterly along the North Fork of the Blackfoot River to the Ovando-Helmville county, road thence southeasterly along the Ovando-Helmville road to Helmville, the point of beginning.

Note: Drawing will be conducted each morning to determine assignment of goose hunting pits at Ninepipes Game Management Area.

COMMON (WILSON'S) SNIPE

Open Season: September 28, 1985 - December 29, 1985.

Bag Limit: 8 Daily and 16 in possession.

TUNDRA (WHISTLING) SWAN

Hunting in Teton or Cascade County by special swan permit only.

Open Season: October 12, 1985 - December 29, 1985. Apply to Helena Fish, Wildlife and Parks office by September 9. Include name, address, phone number, conservation license number, current bird license number, $2.00 drawing fee, indicate flyway desired. Applicants may not apply for swan permits in both flyways. Swan hunters must have a watercraft, a dog capable of retrieving, or chest-high waders along while hunting the dikes at Freezout Lake, as a means of retrieving birds they have killed, wounded or crippled.

MOURNING DOVE

Open Season: September 7, 1985 - November 5, 1985.

Bag Limits: 15 Daily and 30 in possession.

FALCONRY SEASON

Open Season: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset October 12, 1985 - January 12, 1986.

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory game birds, the daily bag and possession limit shall not exceed 2 and 6 birds respectively, singly or in the aggregate, during both the regular hunting season and extended falconry season.

CLOSURES

By order of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the following described areas shall be closed to hunting, harassment, or molesting of migratory waterfowl.

Region 1, Flathead County: Beginning where the west access road to the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area enters said area in the SW1/4 of the SE1/4, Section 24, T27N, R21W approximately one-half mile east of the town of Somers, thence E-NE along fence marking U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service property as posted to the west property line of the Dedman ownership in the W1/2 of Section 20, T27N, R20W, thence south along said line fence as posted to the north shore of Flathead Lake, thence south and westerly approximately 1 3/4 miles as posted to a large stump displaying a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ownership sign in the N1/2 of the N1/2 of Section 25, T27N, R32W, thence northerly along west property line of said Waterfowl Production Area to the point of beginning.

(This Area is Also Closed to Hunting of Upland Game Birds.)

Region 2, Warm Springs Pond No. 3 (Deer Lodge County): A piece. parcel, or tract of land comprising portions of Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12 in T4N, R10W, M.P.M., portions of Sections 30 and 31 in T5N, R9W, M.P.M., and portions of Section 25 and 36 in T5N. R10W, M.P.M., more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the section corner common to Sections 19 and 30 in T5N, R9W, and Section 24 and 25 in T5N. R10W, M.P.M., and running thence west along the north boundary line of said Section 25, T5N, R10W, a distance of 1.060 feet. more or less, to a point on the easterly right-of-way boundary line to U.S. Highway 10 south, thence south 7 degrees 52 minutes west, along the easterly right-of-way boundary line of said U.S. Highway 10 south, a distance of 16,660 feet. more or less, to a point on the northerly right-of-way boundary line of a cross road, thence south 34 degrees 9 minutes east, along the northerly right-of-way boundary line of said cross road, a distance of 216.5 feet to a point, thence south 85 degrees 39 minutes east, along said right-of-way line, a distance of 965.0 feet to a point, thence north 83 degrees 5 minutes east. along said right-of-way line. a distance of 112.6 feet to a point. thence north 54 degrees 34 minutes east along said right-of-way line, a distance of 167.7 feet to a point on the westerly right-of-way boundary line of the old county road to Deer Lodge. thence in a northerly direction along the westerly right-of-way boundary line of the old county road, a distance of 15,600 feet. more or less, to a point, thence north 63 degrees 17 minutes west, along a line 800 feet northerly of the parallel to the center line of dike of Warm Springs Settling Pond No. 3 a distance of 2,831.3 feet to a point, thence north 24 degrees 45 minutes west, a distance of 2,713.4 feet to a point on the north boundary line of Section 30, T5N, R9W, thence north 89 degrees 24 minutes west, along the north boundary line of said Section 30, a distance of 1,567.0 feet to the section corner common to Sections 19 and 30 in T5N. R9W, and Sections 24 and 25 in T5N, R10W, M.P.M., the place of beginning, containing in all an area of 1,580 acres, more or less.

Region 3: None

Region 4, Freezout Game Management Area (Teton County): SW1/4, Section 19, Sections 29 and 30, T22N, R3W, W1/2 Section 12, W1/2 of E1/2 Section 12, and that portion of Sections 13 and 24 within the posted boundary of the Freezout Game Management Area, T22N, R4W. (This area will be open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season; then it will be closed to all hunting.)

Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir (Lewis & Clark County): The Bureau of Reclamation Regulating Reservoir located in Section 8, T10N, R2W in the Helena Valley as posted. (This area will be open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season; then it will be closed to all hunting.)

South Half of Lake Helena (Lewis & Clark County): Beginning at a point in the southwest part of Lake Helena to be marked by a red buoy, thence in a southwesterly direction to the south shore, thence south approximately 1/2 miles, thence in an easterly direction 1 1/2 miles, thence north 1/4 mile. thence east 3/4 mile to the west bank of the BLM drain ditch D; thence down the west bank of the drain ditch to the lake and out into the lake a distance of 400 yards to a point marked by a red buoy, thence in a southwesterly direction across the lake to the point of beginning, in parts of Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26 in T11N, R3W, and in parts of Sections 19 and 30 in T11N, R2W.

Region 5: None

Region 6, Fresno Reservoir Area (Hill County): That portion of the Milk River and within 300 yards of its banks between the southeast corner of Section 1, T34N. R12E and the former Kremlin Crossing (Section 22. T34N, R13E).

McLean Reservoir (Hill County): Approximately 2.560 acres located in Sections 16. 17. 20 and 21. T36N. R15E.

Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County): Approximately 3,020 acres located in portions of Sections 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27. 32, 33, 34 and 35, T32N. R32E; Sections 26, 35 and 36, T32N. R31E; and Sections 4 and 5. T31N, R32E. (Note: Section 31. T32N, R32E and Section 6. T31N. R32E and area west of said sections shall be open to waterfowl hunting.)

North Chinook Reservoir (Blaine County): Approximately 2,215 acres located in the following sections and part sections of T35N, R18E: NE1/4 NW1/4. N1/2 SE1/4. N1/2 N1/2 S1/2 SE1/4. portion of the SW1/4 Section 22: Section 23: Section 24; NE1/4, SE1/4, N1/4 NW1/4. portion of S1/2 NW1/4 Section 25; portion of the N1/2 NW1/4 Section 26.

Sands Lake (Hill County): SW1/4, Section 18, T32N. R16E.

Region 7, Treasure & Rosebud Counties: Beginning at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers. then east down the Yellowstone River to the Rosebud-Custer County line, east of Hathaway, Montana (as posted). This closure shall be within the confines of the normal stream flow and shall include all islands, backwaters. sloughs and sandbars.

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks